

Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area 2003 End of Year Report – Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Introduction



The Palouse Cooperative Weed Management Area (PCWMA) was developed because the lands on the Palouse are so intermingled it made sense to cooperate in the battle against weeds. The goals of the PCWMA are to prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants; reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; implement the most economical and effective methods of treatment and control; educate the public

as to the importance of proper weed management.

The area covered by our MOU includes most Latah and Clearwater counties with small amounts in Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Partners include Bennett Lumber Company, Idaho Department of Lands, Clearwater and Latah County Noxious Weed Control, University of Idaho Experimental Forest, US Forest Service Clearwater NF, Potlatch Corporation, and Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association. Additional members include Idaho State Department of Transportation, and this year we welcome the City of Troy, ID, and Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute.

The weeds we emphasize are Tansy Ragwort, Rush Skeletonweed, Matgrass, and Scotch Broom. Additional weeds for emphasis this year include White Bryony, Yellow Starthistle, and Perennial Pepperweed, and Leafy Spurge.

The chairperson of the PCWMA is Suzanne Qualmann, with Alan Martinson as Vice and Dick Hodge as secretary.

Coordination Meetings

Coordination meetings were held March 3, April 2, May 6, August 13, September 16, and October 28.

2003 Program

OK, so this isn't going to be your normal perky everything went peachy report. Preliminary results indicate another great year for the Palouse Weed Partnership, but we must admit, it was a learning experience. We can only hope. In order to save money the Partnership decided to hire some individuals for weed survey and control that work directly for the Palouse Weed Coop, rather than contracting out all of the work. It is a noble idea and **I wonder if we are the first CWMA to actually do this?**, hire our own

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employees, not just contractors. Perhaps in the long run, this strategy may work, but in the short term *here's what we learned*.

“Gearing Up” for spraying is not easy. It involves purchasing of the normal items like, spray tanks, backpack sprayers, hose, pumps, nozzles, etc. But there's also the small things like tie downs, tools, eye saline, chemical vests, measuring cups, flagging. And there's also the BIG things like ATV's and pickups and trailers, storage sheds. And the “being there”, every day, when the crew leaves, making sure they get back safe, and directing their activities on a daily basis. Rescuing them when they run out of gas. Then when they actually work for about eight different people, scheduling can be a bit tricky too! Here's what we did:

Tansy Ragwort

Thanks to last years Craig Wyden funds we purchased an ATV, and thanks to this years ISDA Cost Share funds we put the miles on spraying and inventorying many of our worst weeds Tansy Ragwort, being just one of them.



Yet more things we learned,,,,finding out the spray mix that our certified applicator was applying was wrong for a number of weeks, after suggesting that he call the County Weed Sups for help with mixing, but he didn't because “I think I've got it figured out”. Or catching that person driving down the road in a pickup with the wand from the ATV that is in the back of the pickup stuck out the pickup window, spraying while driving. Convincing folks (after flipping the ATV, tank and all, several times), that YES, they actually need to get off and walk once in a while.

How about having to go back and re-spray a good weeks' worth of work because someone missed the plants? But when you're dealing with Tansy Ragwort, that's easy to do. Can you find the Tansy rosette at left? Or how about this mature tansy plant on the right? Doesn't exactly jump out at you does it?



We set up a wash station for the Tansy Ragwort area, this will be a two stage process, with the earthwork done this year and the finalization of the pump station next year. The picture at left doesn't do it justice. We put pit run underneath so that the rock would not sink in these deep Palouse soils when wet. We had a pump hidden in the brush this year which we

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used, but we will be setting up a more protected pump in the future. It is designed so that a lowboy can pull in and out without having to take the piece of equipment off.

Two main populations of Tansy Ragwort occur in the Palouse cooperative Weed management Area. One population is in the Gold Creek Drainage and another population in the Meadow Creek Drainage. Of these populations, the Meadow Creek area is the largest, encompassing about 2200 acres. The picture at right shows our Tansy Ragwort work day. We had two timber crews from Department of Lands and Potlatch Corporation as well as our CWMA



inventory/spray members of the tripping over our head in satellite up to 30 miles this year, is still growing.



crew, and several steering committee out through brush that was a few places! Three new populations (single plants away) were discovered indicating this infestation Control measures in the herbicide treatment of

past have consisted primarily of plants that were adjacent to roads and meadows. We are now seeing this plant starting to populate some native vegetation adjacent to these transportation corridors. An extensive inventory with GPS locations of individual and group populations was done. The area was posted with some information signs explaining recreational dispersal of seeds and how to identify tansy ragwort.

We met with Forest Service Entomologists Carol Randall (USFS State and PVT), George Markin (Rocky Mtn Research Station), Judd Reed (ITD), Al Heimgartner from Potlatch Corporation, Tom Barbouletos (USFS) and Alan Martinson (Latah Co) to discuss biocontrol options. We hope to release some agents in 2004.

Inventory

More things we learned, when you give someone a “weeds of the west book”, and they say, “I don’t really need this because I know all of the weeds, I just use books like this to figure out the scientific name”,,,,



BEWARE. You know how you hire a crew, and the person that is majoring in Range, wears the cowboy boots, and hat, is the one you expect to do the best, but it turns out the person whose past experience was detailing cars is



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the best hand you've got? Well it was one of those summers. Car detailer shown at left, doing inventory and control work at the same time.

The absolute miracle is that no one got hurt. Thank God. Because the icing on the cake was when the “wonder boy” fell asleep at the wheel on the way out to a spray job and ran off the road. OK, so the chairperson had to hire a therapist after this summer, but we did learn a lot.

Rush Skeletonweed and Education

We learned that good weed spray programs count on diversity. Thank goodness we had CPTPA (Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association) spraying for us also, they are a well tuned machine. They went through the gotta buy a lotta junk mode a couple of years ago. And thank god we still had funds left to hire some contractors, that REALLY know what they are doing. Perfection Weed and Pest Control did a great job of spraying our roadsides high use recreation areas and the Rush Skeletonweed, with help from Latah County's new Noxious Weed Superintendent, Alan Martinson. We sprayed about 10

acres of rush skeletonweed, that represents many scattered plants.



We held a great weed ID class, and set up another successful booth at the Latah and Clearwater County Fairground. In addition we distributed over 200 noxious weed id books.

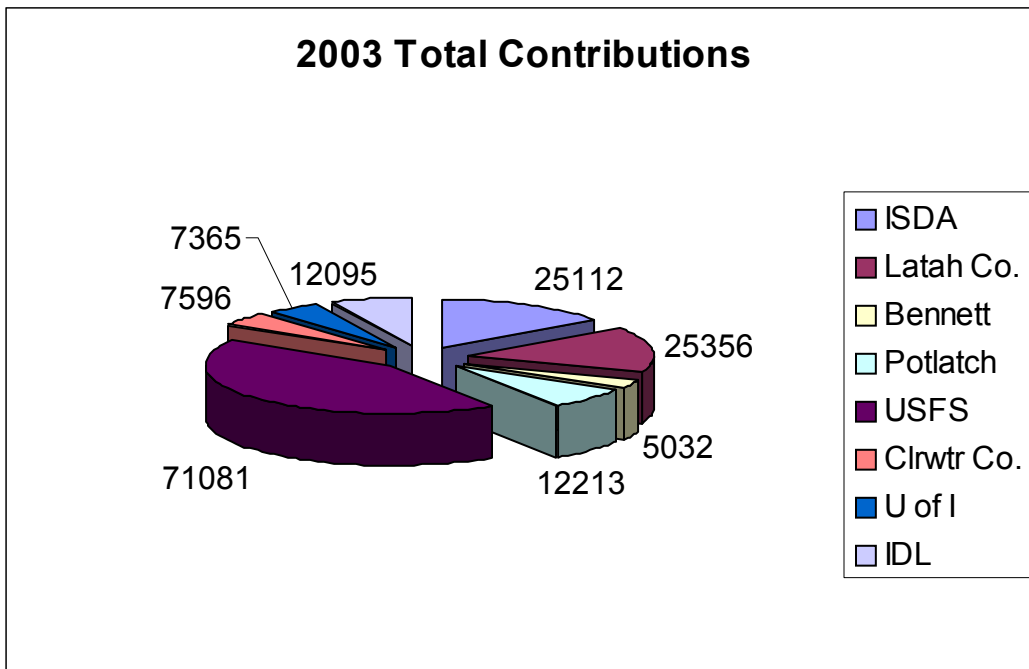
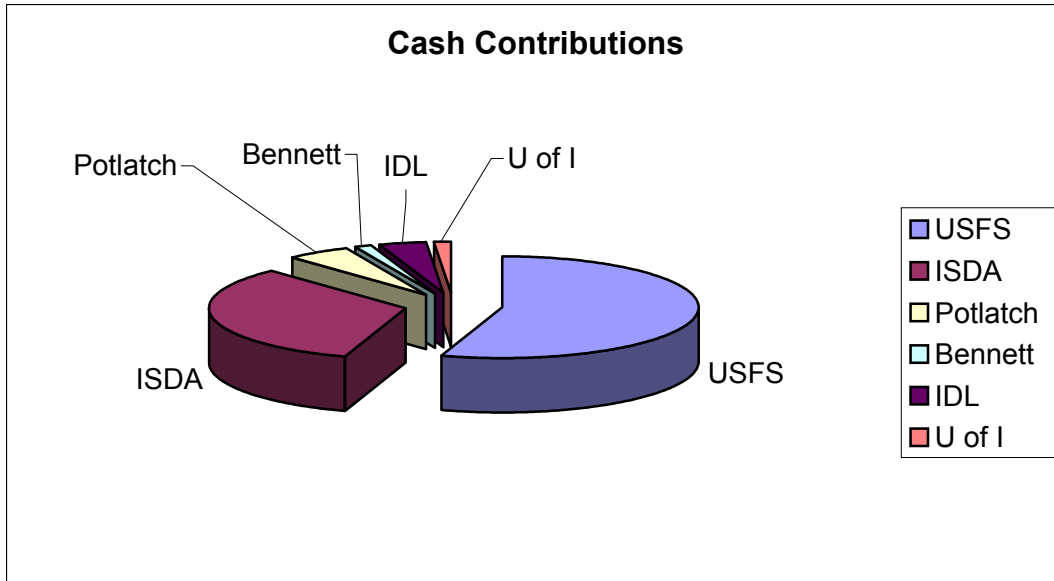


General Program

We also sprayed lots of different species in the the general forest (and farm) areas, and we will continue to participate with the Nez Perce Biocontrol Center for releases on Spotted Knapweed, with new emphasis next year on Leafy Spurge.

Nine partners are involved in this effort and two more have joined us just recently: Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service, Bennett Lumber Company, University of Idaho Experimental Forest, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, Latah and Clearwater County Noxious Weed Control, and Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council. The City of Troy has just let us know that they want “in”, and Palouse Clearwater Enviromental Institute will be working with us on their *Pulling Together* Paradise Creek Initiative for education and control of weeds.

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For work projects proposed for next year, please see the 2004 Annual Operating Plan.

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Project Summaries

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated	Comments
Inventory and Control (also includes GIS and mapping)	Tansy Ragwort	2381	Acres Meadow Cr = 2258, Acres Gold Cr = 123
Acres inventoried (GIS and Mapping)	Yellow & Orange Hawkweed, Rush Skeletonweed, Spotted Knapweed,	Approximately 1000	(We are in the process of making shape files out of this as we speak, we have the pt, line, poly data on CD attached. Will send updated material)
Control	Rush Skeletonweed	10 acres	This population is finally shrinking!
Education	N/A	Reached at least 500 people	

Thank You
Suzanne Qualmann
Palouse CWMA Chair

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Appendix I: Steering Committee and Contributor List

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